



POLICY/COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING Minutes

May 4, 2023

Virtual Meeting - 4:00 p.m.

Committee Members: Jennifer Wolf, Chair
Jodi Bettermann, Michele Mencer, Randall Peach

Administrative Staff: Dr. Jonathan Hart, Superintendent of Schools
Jason Bohm, SBA/Board Secretary

Minutes

1. Policy Alert 230

- a. Bylaw 0144 - Board Member Orientation and Training
 - i. The School Ethics Commission has been re-adopted by the New Jersey State Department of Education with revision. Revisions to N.J.A.C 6A:28-4.1 change the requirement for a Board Member to receive their initial training from “during a member’s first term” to “within 90 days” of a new Board Member’s term. Readington’s current practice was to have training completed by April 30th so the change is not significant. The committee inquired if school boards will offer more training date options during the condensed period of time.
- b. Policy 2520 - Instructional Supplies
- c. Regulation 2520 - Instructional Supplies
 - i. The policy and regulation have been revised to reflect current best practices. These revised guides allow for the Superintendent to designate a staff member to develop regulations for the selection and utilization of instructional supplies.
- d. Policy 3217 - Use of Corporal Punishment
 - i. Policy 3217 has been revised to align directly with the governing statute N.J.S.A 18A:6-1 and addresses situations in which it is appropriate for certificated staff members to use force in limited circumstances to protect self or others. Training will be provided on how to safely and appropriately restrain.
- e. Policy 4217 - Use of Corporal Punishment
 - i. Policy 4217 has been developed to address the requirements in N.J.S.A 18A:6-1 for support staff members because the statute requires compliance by any person employed by the Board.

2. Cell Phone Policy Discussion

Committee discussed adding a statement to Policy 5516, Use of Electronic Communication and Recording Devices (ECD) in support of developing programs that empower students and parents to delay the purchase of smartphones and social media until an appropriate age. Also, updating the policy to include reference to allow the use of such electronic devices when medically necessary.

3. Book Complaint Policies

- a. Policy 2530 – Resource Materials
- b. Policy 9130 - Public Complaints & Grievances
 - i. The committee discussed differing perspectives on the process outlined in the current policy. Dr. Hart will bring Regulation 9130 with revisions discussed to a future committee agenda.

4. Recruiting Class 2 or 3 Officers

- a. The committee discussed and expressed support for putting forth all possible efforts in recruiting initiatives for Class II or III Police Officers. Genesis Blast, e-mails to local PBA and PBA Local 600, have already been sent. A blast also went out in Community News and contact has also been made with the former Police Chief who is still involved with the state Police Chief Association. The township will continue to provide extra patrol while they interview candidates for the one open role.
5. Readington News
 - a. Local community members have increased their ad purchases. Dr. Hart will put forth a proposal for which announcements the district may consider purchasing ad space. For example, to advertise preschool and kindergarten registration.
6. Advocacy
 - a. The committee discussed moving advocacy to every other month on the agenda to give the committee the opportunity to focus the efforts and create a timeline for when messages may best reach the intended audience.
7. Press Releases Tentative Topics (Based on Communications Plan):
 - a. June (due May 15): Green Initiatives: How we celebrated Earth Day in April (Green Committee Chair, School Principal(s)), Final Budget (Mr. Bohm), Governor Educators of the Year (Mrs. Harris)
 - b. Summer (due June 15): Summer Learning: Keeping up Skills Over the Summer (Dr. Brown and Ms. Pauch)
8. Agenda items: Bylaw 0144, Policy 2520, Policy 3217 and Policy 4217
9. Next Meeting: Thursday, June 8, 2023 at 4pm